marketing for minimizing the losses and controlling anti hoarding measures through implementation of control orders promulgated by States under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act in certain essential commodities.

In order to protect the losses of foodgrains and fruits and vegetables at different stages of marketing, the Government of India has initiated action on agricultural marketing reforms by bringing amendments in the APMC Act on the lines of Model Act circulated to all States during 2003. The emphasis has been given to reduce the marketing channel by bringing direct marketing, contract farming and to improve the marketing infrastructure by involving private sector in development of infrastructure and setting up of markets with modern physical infrastructural facilities. The Ministry has also implemented capital investment subsidy scheme of Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization, Rural Godown Scheme respectively for development of marketing infrastructure providing, storage facilities for farmers and other market participants respectively. The market information is important for taking appropriate marketing decisions by the farmers. The Ministry has also launched a Central Sector Scheme of Marketing Research and Information Network (AGMARKNET) since March, 2000 for dissemination of market information to farmers. The above measures initiated by the Govt. of India will facilitate reduction in post harvest losses of agricultural produce.

National Live-stock Policy

27. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to boost the capacity in the live-stock sector to increase growth in agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the salient features of the National Live-stock Policy *Inter-alia* indicating the time-frame within which it is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

The salient features of the proposed National Livestock policy are as under:

(i) Enhancing productivity in livestock and removal of constraints which hinder productivity;

(ii) To double the availability of animal protein from the present level of 10 gm. per capita per day to 20 gm per capita per day within a decade.

(iii) To improve understanding of socio economic problems relating to small holding systems and development of appropriate extension modules for transfer of technology for small farm production.

(vi) Formulation of breeding policy for each livestock species aiming at qualitative and quantitative improvement in livestock products.

(v) To provide quality assurance in the entire food chain to meet international standards concerning quality, hygiene and food safety.

(vi) Preparation of contingency plan concerning natural calamities and disease outbreaks which would also include appropriate insurance packages.

(vii) Strengthening of educational infrastructure for training and retraining of veterinary graduates, auxiliary staff as well as farmers.

(viii) Eradication and control of major animal diseases to improve productivity of animals and exploit export potential of livestock and livestock products.

The draft National Livestock Policy is under circulation before its presentation to the Cabinet and expected to be launched before the end of this year.

The National Livestock Policy provides broad guidelines for holistic development of the entire livestock sector. Therefore, to meet its objectives various short, medium and long tern programmes will have to be implemented over a period of time.

Since Livestock sector is a state subject, the states will have to adopt the policy and launch suitable programmes specific to their needs so as to meet the overall national objectives of livestock development in order to ensure food security of the nation and general welfare of rural and urban population.

Fish breeding

28. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project is being operated by Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) comprising four ornamental fish breeding units by entrepreneurs with technology provided from Israel to meet the domestic requirement as well as to export ornamental fish;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these marine products have also been used by Indian aquarium industry and the percentage thereof *viz.-a-viz.* the total production; and

(d) the details of foreign exchange earned through exporting these marine products during 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes Sir. The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is implementing a scheme for setting up four ornamental fish breeding units with technical assistance from Israel.

(b) Four entrepreneurs located in West Bengal and Kerala had been selected under this scheme to set up two Angel Fish and two Guppy fish production units. Two angel fish production units have already started the production on trial basis. The construction of two Guppy units is nearing completion and production will start soon.

(c) The project is in the final phase and the units are expected to start commercial scale production soon.